

Applicant: Frank-Uwe Sommer
Appl. No.: 10/518,360

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application.

Claims 4-6, 9-11, 14-16, and 21 are currently pending. Claim 1 has been cancelled and replaced with new independent claim 21. Claims 4, 9, 11, and 15 have been amended to address antecedent basis issues. Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 12, 13, and 17-20 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6, 9-11, 14-18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Swiss Patent Document CH 678964 to Kaiser et al. (“Kaiser”) in view of German Patent Document DE 198 08 696 to Sommer et al. (“Sommer”), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,981,026 to Blodgett (“Blodgett”). The Applicant traverses this rejection. Nevertheless, solely to further prosecution, claim 1 has been cancelled, and replaced with a new independent claim 21. The Applicant submits that claim 21 is patentable over Kaiser in view of Sommer and Blodgett for at least the following reasons.

First, no reasonable combination of Kaiser, Sommer, and Blodgett discloses or renders obvious a “first insert body comprising a first part having lateral walls that are dimensioned to plug into the first end or the second end of the guide rail, and a second part configured and

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dimensioned to abut the first end or the second end of the guide rail,” as recited by claim 21. The Office Action apparently aligns the interior portion of Sommer’s cover 40 with the claimed “first part,” and apparently aligns the outer rim of Sommer’s cover 40 with the claimed “second part.” However, no portion of Sommer’s cover 40 has lateral walls that are dimensioned to *plug into* the end of rail 4, as claimed. In fact, no portion of Sommer’s cover 40 *plugs into* the end of rail 4.

Kaiser and Blodgett fail to remedy the deficiencies of Sommer. Referring to Blodgett’s Figure 2, no insert bodies whatsoever are present at the ends of track 2. With respect to Kaiser, nowhere is it disclosed or suggested that the end plates 16 “have” lateral walls that are dimensioned to plug into the first end or the second end” of the rail 10. As a result, no reasonable combination of Kaiser, Sommer, and Blodgett discloses or renders obvious a “first insert body comprising a first part having lateral walls that are dimensioned to plug into the first end or the second end of the guide rail, and a second part configured and dimensioned to abut the first end or the second end of the guide rail,” as recited by claim 21.

Second, no reasonable combination of Kaiser, Sommer, and Blodgett discloses or renders obvious “a contact body positioned on at least one of the lateral walls of the first part of the first insert body, the contact body adapted to contact the guide rail, wherein the contact body is coupled to the second lead of the current feed cable and delivers current from the current source to the guide rail,” as recited by claim 21. The Office Action apparently aligns the segment of Sommer’s cover 40 near cable core 13 with the claimed “cable core.” However, said segment is **not** positioned on a lateral wall of the cover 40, and does **not** contact the rail 4, as claimed.

Rather, the segment identified by the Office Action is merely an arbitrary area located near the center of Sommer's cover 40.

Kaiser and Blodgett fail to remedy the deficiencies of Sommer. Specifically, neither Kaiser nor Blodgett discloses an insert body located at an end of their respective rail 10 or track 2, which includes a contact body that delivers current from a current source to the rail 10 or track 2. Therefore, no reasonable combination of Kaiser, Sommer, and Blodgett discloses or renders obvious a “a contact body positioned on at least one of the lateral walls of the first part of the first insert body, the contact body adapted to contact the guide rail, wherein the contact body is coupled to the second lead of the current feed cable and delivers current from the current source to the guide rail,” as recited by claim 21.

Third, no reasonable combination of Kaiser, Sommer, and Blodgett discloses or renders obvious “a first insert body” having an associated “current feed cable” and “contact body,” and “a second insert body configured and dimensioned to be interchangeably plugged into the first end of the guide rail and the second end of the guide rail, wherein the second insert body does not include a current feed cable or a contact body,” as recited by claim 21. The Office Action apparently aligns the end plate 16 on the right-hand side of Kaiser's Figure 1 with the claimed “first insert body,” and aligns the end plate 16 on the left-hand side of Figure 1 with the claimed “second insert body.” In addition, the Office Action aligns portions of Sommer's Figure 6 with the claimed “current feed cable” and “contact body,” respectively. However, no reasonable combination of the cited references discloses or suggests that one of Kaiser's end plates 16 would have the asserted current feed cable and contact body, and the other end plate 16 **would not**.

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Accordingly, no reasonable combination of Kaiser, Sommer, and Blodgett discloses or renders obvious “a first insert body” having an associated “current feed cable” and “contact body,” and “a second insert body configured and dimensioned to be interchangeably plugged into the first end of the guide rail and the second end of the guide rail, wherein the second insert body does not include a current feed cable or a contact body,” as recited by claim 21.

Fourth, the configuration recited by claim 21 provides non-obvious advantages over Kaiser, Sommer, and Blodgett. According to claim 21, the first and second insert bodies can be interchangeably plugged into the first and second ends of the guide rail, and the hook of the first traction mechanism tensioning device can lock the traction mechanism in place without tools. The first traction mechanism tensioning device serves a dual purpose in that the hook also delivers current from a current source to the traction mechanism. In addition, the first insert body includes a contact body that contacts the guide rail and delivers current from the current source to the guide rail, for example, upon plugging the first insert body into the guide rail. As a result, the drive device can be assembled without tools, and the current feed to the motor is simultaneously established. Further, the current feed can be easily supplied at either the first end or the second end of the guide rail, by switching the arrangement of the interchangeable first and second insert bodies. Neither Kaiser, Sommer, nor Blodgett suggests these advantages of claim 21.

The Applicant submits that claim 21 is patentable over Kaiser, Sommer, and Blodgett for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 4-6, 9-11, 14-16, and 21 depend from claim 21, and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

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Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Steven J. Schwarz/
Steven J. Schwarz
Registration No. 47,070
VENABLE LLP
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, DC 20043-9998
Telephone: (202) 344-4000
Telefax: (202) 344-8300

#1078030